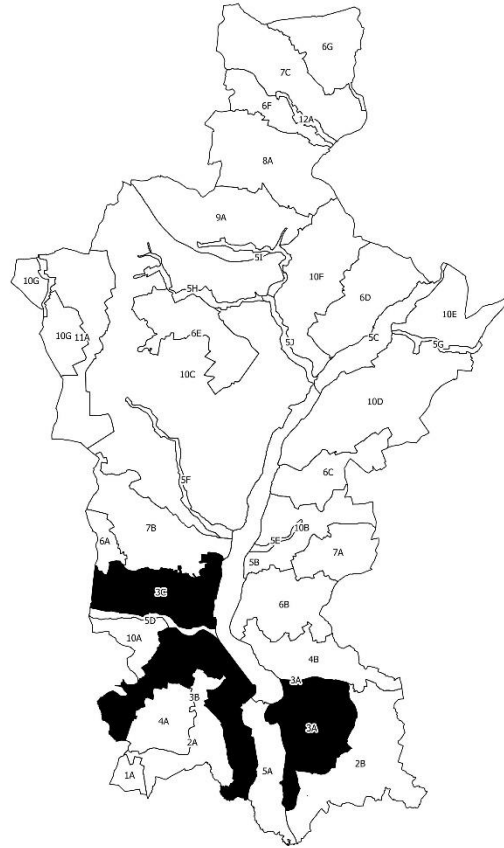


LCT3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland - Medium Scale

General Description

- 3.1 Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale has a pattern of a small to medium areas of pasture with arable farmland, woodland, shelter belts and hedgerows. In some areas, large swathes of connected woodland dominate the landscape, with forestry plantations, alongside semi-natural woodland. Other areas are dominated by arable farmland providing large open fields, sometimes with thin gappy hedgerows or no hedgerows at all, which are further enclosed by adjacent woodlands, shelter belts or thick hedgerows.
- 3.2 Parklands are a feature of this landscape type with landscape features such as woodlands and shelterbelts, scattered trees, rows of trees, wood pasture (in the case old deer parks), exotic trees, ancient pollard trees and veteran trees. The character type has a low density of small nucleated and linear settlements, with scattered farmsteads and large houses with areas of parklands. A high density of rural lanes criss-cross the valleys and ridges.
- 3.3 Ridge deposits of sand and gravel are found in the southern areas of the Borough, giving rise to past and present mineral workings.



Location

- 3.4 The type forms a part of the more complex and varied landscapes (which include LCT4) that separate the heathlands (LCT1) and pasture and woodlands associated with heathlands (LCT2) to the south and the chalk and clay wooded farmland (LCT6 and 7) and chalk downlands (LCT10) to the north. There are three areas of this landscape character type found within the Borough, as follows:

- LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- LCA3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
- LCA3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland

Physical Influences

- 3.5 **Geology and Soils:** Wittering Formation, Earnley Sand Formation, London Clay and Lambeth Group with areas of River Terrace Deposits and Plateau Gravel.

Landform: The topography of this landscape type is irregular and provides a mix of small valleys, local knolls, ridges and depressions.

Drainage: The type includes part of the lower slopes of the River Test catchment area.

Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 3.6 Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium scale has a high proportion of woodland cover and is characterised by extensive ancient semi-natural woodland and semi-natural woodland with active coppice linked by hedgerows. Some areas covered by this LCT are of international importance to biodiversity. There is a wide range of biodiversity associated with this type which includes hedgerows with banks and large standard trees as well as streams and meadows. Occasional pockets of heathland remain. The majority of species found are typical of neutral to calcareous soils and include oak, ash and field maple, although there are areas of heath and acid grassland. Pastoral farmland is the dominant land use. Arable and rotational grassland is abundant although not co-dominating.

Notable habitats

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (including much ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS))
- Unimproved neutral grassland
- Heathland
- Mires and bogs
- Semi-improved grassland

Historical Influences

- 3.7 The landscape is characterised by a mixed historic landscape with several historic field systems indicating 18th and 19th century development present throughout this type. This process included the formal and informal enclosure of earlier field systems and the development of substantial parklands particularly close to the valley floor of the River Test.
- 3.8 The historic development of such a landscape may demonstrate the development of agricultural based wealth within the Test Valley. This prosperity during this period often resulted in the purchase of larger farming estate and the development of formal parkland environments. This would then lead to areas of exclusion and social control.
- 3.9 Also present are areas of landscape that demonstrate substantial assarting of a previously wooded environment which result from an increased intensification during the later medieval and post-medieval periods. With the small and medium assarted field system displaying irregular boundaries, it can be presumed that this clearance occurred between the early medieval to early post medieval period. The larger assarted fields, with their straight boundaries and more regular shapes, suggest that either the small and medium sized fields lost their boundaries or medieval to 18th/19th century clearance took place. The final style of assarting present is the regular assart with straight boundaries. These date to the 19th and 20th centuries indicating either the alteration of previous assarting or further clearance.

Settlement Pattern

- 3.10 The settlements present within this character type are generally dominated by their proximity to a good supply of water. Examples of Clay River Valley and Chalk/Clay Spring Line settlements can be identified. These settlements tend to retain one or more historic cores, dating to the later medieval and early post-medieval period, as well as evidence for the presence of an early medieval church foundation. Such settlements tend to develop in a linear pattern and, where a significantly sized river is present, can often be found upon suitable bridging or fording points. These settlements are often located at nodal points within the road network and the main settlements are surrounded by smaller subsidiary groupings and farmsteads.

Communication Network

- 3.11 Running throughout this character type are numerous droveways, woodland tracks and park pales, indicating a heavily developed landscape. The Test Way passes through part of the Landscape Character Type.

Key Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

- 3.12 Key natural and cultural landscape issues are as follows:
- Impact of mineral workings and long term restoration
 - Potential change in farming practices, with increased areas managed as 'hobby farms' or as horse paddocks, characterised by rank weedy grassland and poorly managed boundaries
 - Potential loss of parkland features
 - Deterioration and further loss of hedgerows
 - Poor woodland management
 - Loss of unimproved mesotrophic grassland to arable or through application of fertilisers
 - Declining farmland bird populations
 - Enrichment of water bodies through fertiliser run off
 - Loss of woodlands to development or to arable or pasture
 - Lack of coppice management leading to a reduction of specialised species such as butterflies

Land Management Guidelines

3.13 All of the Borough wide land management guidelines in the introduction apply to this Landscape Character Type. Specific to this landscape type are:

3.14 Agriculture

- Manage the agricultural landscapes for biodiversity such as incorporating hedgerows or grass field margins
- Encourage replanting of hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Ensure the careful siting of new agricultural buildings

3.15 Hedgerows

- Encourage traditional methods of hedge management
- Restore hedgerows and encourage replanting of former hedgerow lines

3.16 Woodland and Trees

- Maintain existing woodland cover and encourage active management, including coppicing, to ensure their survival and for biodiversity
- Encourage the replanting of plantations with native broadleaved woodland

3.17 Biodiversity

- Protect watercourses and wetlands by minimising pollution and soil erosion
- Encourage agricultural management that will protect and enhance remnant unimproved grasslands

Land Use and Development Guidelines

3.18 All of the Borough wide land use and development guidelines in the introduction apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Type are:

3.19 Built Development

- Maintain the existing settlement pattern
- Protect and enhance the landscape setting to local villages

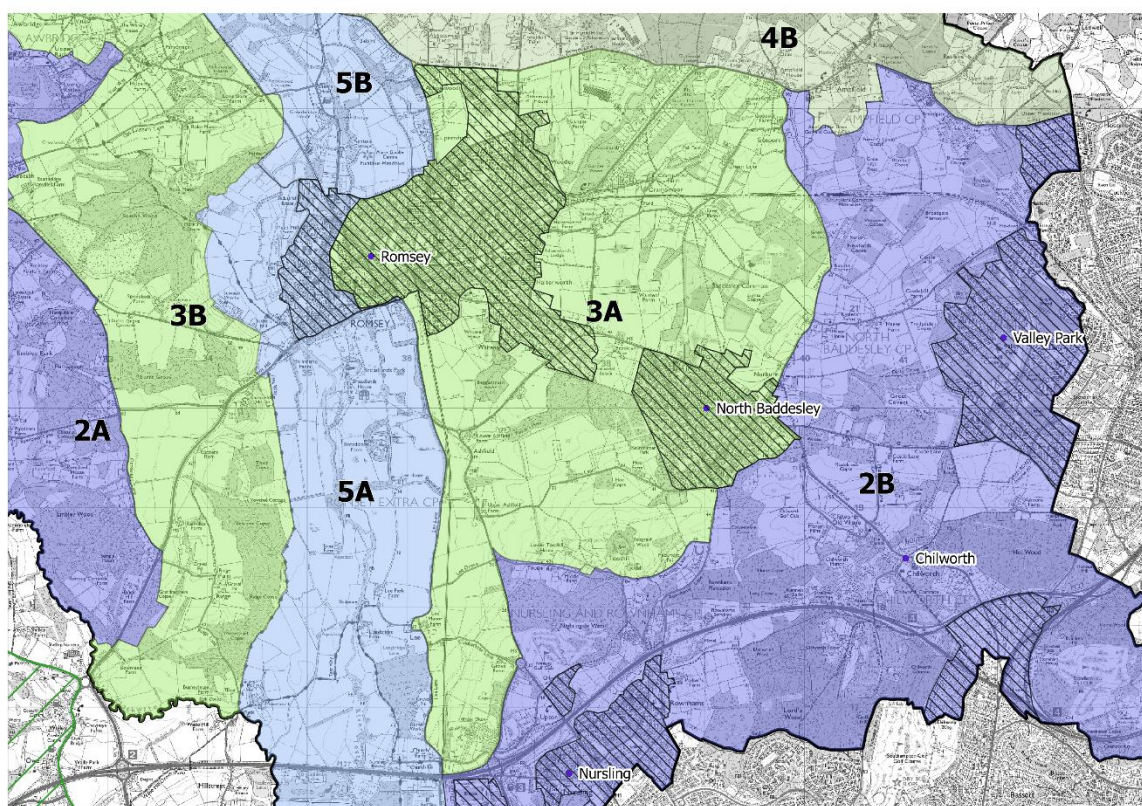
3.20 Infrastructure

- Avoid suburbanisation arising from introduction of inappropriate highway measures and conserve the rural character of lanes

3.21 Recreation, Tourism and Access

- Encourage management of woodlands to enable greater public access

LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland



General Description

- 3A.1. Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland is a gently rolling to relatively flat landscape, with small discrete stream valleys with tributaries flowing in the direction of Romsey into the River Test. A number of these river valleys have lakes, as seen in the area north east of Romsey. An area of mixed farmland made up from medium size arable fields, small pasture fields, woodlands and areas of nursery tree planting. Hedgerows enclose the fields, however their quality varies throughout.
- 3A.2. Residential development abuts the open areas of arable and pasture farmland, as seen on the eastern edge of Romsey.

Location

- 3A.3. Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland lies to the east of the River Test Valley Floor. The northern boundary abuts Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and

Arboretum and the eastern boundary borders Bucket Corner and Nightingale Wood.

Local Physical Influences

- 3A.4. **Geology and Soils:** The area is a complex mix including Wittering Formation, Earnley Sand Formation and London Clay with some River Terrace Deposits and an alluvial valley running west to east from the Test valley.

Landform: The landform is undulating, falling westwards down to the River Test Valley.

Drainage: A number of streams run into the River Test but parts of the area are poorly drained, as at Emer Bog and Baddesley Common. There are some large ponds or lakes associated with former mineral workings.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 3A.5. This area is predominantly improved pasture and arable farmland, divided by hedgerows, while the northern part of the LCA has more extensive broadleaved and plantation woodland. Several important areas of broadleaved woodland are found in this area. Oak and birch are abundant in these areas, while other species such as ash, rowan, holly, whitebeam and field maple are also represented. Poplar and aspen are found in the damper areas. There are locally-abundant areas of sweet chestnut and this has often been historically managed by coppicing, although this has somewhat fallen into neglect.
- 3A.6. Although limited in extent, there are areas of neutral and acid grassland habitat in this area, including some traditional grazed hay meadows.
- 3A.7. Other notable habitats include occasional patches of lowland heath dominated by heather, together with mosaics of acid grassland, patchy woodland and scrub. Often the valleys have wet areas. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands link with hedgerows and provide an important resource, contributing to wider ecological networks and are particularly key to species such as hazel dormouse, which is well-represented in the woodlands in this LCA.

- 3A.8. Baddesley Common and Emer Bog support particularly important habitats, comprising a complex mosaic of habitats including broadleaved woodland, dry heath, unimproved grassland, bracken, coniferous plantation, marshy grassland and ponds. These sites are designated as SAC and SSSI.
- 3A.9. There are several ponds in this LCA, and there are numerous records of great crested newt across the northern part of the LCA.
- 3A.10. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA3A.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Acid grassland	11.92	0.59
Arable and horticulture	455.83	22.40
Boundary and linear features	118.53	5.83
Bracken	5.81	0.29
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	255.47	12.56
Built-up areas and gardens	438.80	21.57
Coniferous woodland	31.69	1.56
Dwarf shrub heath	2.53	0.12
Fen, marsh and swamp	36.02	1.77
Improved grassland	463.31	22.77
Inland rock	0.14	0.01
Neutral grassland	117.22	5.76
Rivers and streams	0.78	0.04
Standing open water and canals	6.08	0.30
Unidentified habitat	79.65	3.91
Unidentified water	10.89	0.54
Total	2034.68	

Local Historical Influences

- 3A.11. The presence of regular field systems with wavy boundaries close to Romsey suggests that this area may have been the first within LCA3A to be informally enclosed during possibly the 17th or 18th centuries. Elsewhere parliamentary field enclosure appears to be largely focused upon the Clay River Valley Type settlements located within this area indicating a drive for later formalised enclosure associated with such settlements.

- 3A.12. The medium sized irregular assarts and copses with boundaries, regular assarts with straight boundaries and 19th century plantation all point to a previously wooded landscape throughout this character area. This began to be cleared (informally at first) by the late medieval to early post-medieval period and this process continued into the 19th/20th centuries, with areas being replanted during the 19th century.
- 3A.13. A possible Iron Age hill fort occupies a small rise within Telegraph Wood to the north of the M27.

Designations

- 3A.14. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

3A.15. **Nature Conservation**

SAC and SSSI

- Emer Bog and Baddesley Common - Complex mosaic of habitats including broadleaved woodland, dry heath, unimproved grassland, bracken, coniferous plantation, marshy grassland and a pond

SINC

- 53 SINCs, including ancient semi-natural woodlands, agriculturally unimproved grasslands; also some heathland remnants, wetlands and sites which support notable species

3A.16. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- Romsey Conservation Area

Scheduled Monuments

- Toot Hill Camp

Listed Buildings

- A number of listed buildings are scattered across the area including clusters in Romsey Conservation Area (including the Grade I listed Romsey Abbey), at Gosport, and at Grove Place (Grade I listed) (with associated parkland)

Registered Parks and Gardens

- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum: Listed as Grade II on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

Settlement Pattern

- 3A.17. The settlement pattern of the built-up areas of Romsey and North Baddesley have not been reviewed in detail as part of this Assessment. Romsey has had considerable influence upon the surrounding landscape. This may explain why the relatively early and informal enclosure of fields takes place with an increased need to feed a rapidly growing population during the 17th and 18th centuries. At this time railways were not invented, roads were by and large in a dreadful state and Romsey was not furnished with access to a canal or navigation. Therefore a productive agricultural hinterland was of paramount importance and informal enclosure was one of the first steps to ensuring this.
- 3A.18. The parliamentary field systems to the east of Romsey retain only a few widely spaced farmsteads although other examples may have subsequently been subsumed within the settlement expansion of Romsey or may have been redeveloped as residential properties. Since circa 2011 Romsey has extended to the north. This northern extension is largely contained within areas of former parliamentary fields, with many former field boundary hedges, trees and copses retained. Areas of fields/green space between and within the recent residential expansions break up the built form, provide a contrast to the modern urban areas and important green infrastructure with some managed for nature conservation and recreation with access routes providing connections.
- 3A.19. Dwellings outside the main urban area of Romsey and North Baddesley are limited to some low density intermittent ribbon development on the approach roads, as seen along the A3090. Other settlements are limited to farmsteads, which includes a fish farm north east of Crampmoor.

Local Settlements

- 3A.20. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):
- North Baddesley: Heath Associated Settlement Type
 - Romsey (historic core): Clay River Valley Settlement Type
 - Romsey (post-medieval historic core): Clay River Valley Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

- 3A.21. Due to the lack of woodland cover and lack of substantial hedgerows in places, parts of Romsey are visible to the surrounding landscape. The sense of seclusion and tranquillity is affected close to Romsey and by a number of roads, including those which radiate from the town where the sense of seclusion and tranquillity is limited. The tree and woodland cover and natural characteristics at Baddesley Common and Emer Bog create pockets of areas with more tranquil qualities.

Key Valued Characteristics

- 3A.22. Key valued characteristics of LCA3A are as follows:
- Predominantly rural character with mixed farmland
 - Trees, woodland and hedges create a sense of enclosure and intimacy and provide strong containment to the settlement edge of Romsey and North Baddesley limiting views
 - Rural character of roads lined by mature trees, hedgerows, grass verges and ditches
 - The landscape around Lee Lane and rural lanes in the north-east of the area, including Baddesley Common and Emer Bog, are generally free from detractors
 - Key views include long views to wooded ridges notably from the central part of Hoe Lane looking north-west; views from Lee Lane across open fields and vegetation along the valley floor; and at Baddesley Common and Emer Bog across open areas of grassland to wooded horizons.
 - Telegraph Wood containing a possible Iron Age hill fort on a small rise forms a local landmark feature
 - Hedgerows are a locally important feature but their quality is very variable and they are sometimes absent resulting in large open areas e.g. around Hoe Lane
 - A number of streams with stream-fed lakes
 - Patches of lowland heath and valley wetlands
 - Baddesley Common and Emer Bog have natural and tranquil qualities, provide some open access and include a complex mosaic of habitats

- Parliamentary field enclosure, generally close to Clay River Valley Settlement type and to the river valleys themselves
- Medium-sized irregular assarts and copses with wavy boundaries between Crampmoor and Ampfield
- On the higher ground evidence remains of the previously wooded environment with narrow discrete roads and tracks, assarted fields and successive replanting of the forest
- Ancient semi-natural woodland linked by hedgerows.
- Parkland and parkland features at Grove Place
- Surviving traditional farmsteads
- Traditional styles of built form include brick walls with clay tile roofs and clay tile hanging, with older properties of brick with thatched roofs.
- Trees along hilltops frame views
- Key view to Romsey from A27 along Green Hill to east (within the 3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland Character Area)
- Trees forming part of the skyline around Romsey town including at Botley Road cemetery and the two small chapels
- Wooded character of the Straight Mile with built form largely hidden from view
- Avenues of trees within Romsey

Key Detractors

3A.23. Key detractors of LCA3A are as follows:

- Some urbanising and intrusive elements including pylons in the south-east of the area where a number cross open fields in close proximity; occasional oversized gateways to properties/businesses; large scale commercial buildings to the north-east of North Baddesley; and solar developments north east of Abbey Park Industrial Estate and south of Lee Drove
- Busy roads with scattered ribbon development on approach roads to Romsey, notably along the A3090
- Poor sense of seclusion or tranquillity close to busy roads and built-up areas
- In places lost or degraded hedgerows have resulted in large open areas
- Limited number of public rights of way restricting recreational opportunities and enjoyment of the countryside

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

3A.24. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA3A are as follows:

- Pressure for additional development and the potential erosion of the surrounding historic landscape and remaining wetlands arising from further development extending from the main settlements.
- Potential merging of North Baddesley and Romsey and loss of separate identity of settlements
- Further loss or damage to local wetland heath areas.
- Expansion of farmsteads and conversion of farm buildings to residential
- Recreational pressures damaging the natural character of Baddesley Common and Emer Bog
- Further solar and other renewable energy development eroding the rural character of the area

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3A.25. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland are as follows:

- Although the area has a number of distinctive features, overall the landscape has become fragmented. The overall strategy is to restore and enhance the landscape structure of woodland linked by hedgerows within Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

3A.26. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land management guidelines apply to this Character Area. Specific to this Character Area are as follows:

3A.27. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Reinforce existing local valued features and add to woodland and hedgerow structure

3A.28. **Agriculture**

- Encourage reversion of arable land to pasture
- Discourage merging of remaining smaller fields

3A.29. **Woodland and Trees**

- Encourage new planting of woodlands in keeping with existing local woodland pattern

3A.30. **Biodiversity**

- Protect watercourses and wetlands associated with Emer Bog and Baddesley Common including through minimising pollution, and soil erosion
- Prevent loss of remnant heathland and encourage heathland restoration
- Encourage the restoration and creation of ponds to the north of the LCA to conserve and enhance the local population of great crested newts
- Encourage woodland and hedgerow management and restoration to conserve and enhance the local population of hazel dormouse

3A.31. **Historic Landscapes**

- Maintain the patchwork of informal 17th and 18th century enclosure fields found within the hinterland of Romsey
- Protect the landscape setting of Broadlands¹ and Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum Registered Parks and Gardens
- Protect parkland and parkland features at Grove Place

3A.32. **Settlement Fringe**

- Protect and enhance the important green spaces around and within the settlement fringe (such as to the west of Abbotswood) and their contribution to green infrastructure, links with the wider countryside, nature conservation, the setting of the settlement and breaking up the built form

Land Use and Development

3A.33. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land use and development guidelines apply to this Character Area. Specific to this character area are:

3A.34. **Built Development**

- Avoid the coalescence and loss of separate identity of Romsey and North Baddesley which are separated by a narrow gap of fields
- Proposals for new solar development should consider the cumulative impacts on the valued predominantly rural character with mixed farmland

3A.35. **Infrastructure**

¹ This Registered Historic Park and Garden is outside but adjacent to the LCA

- Protect the area from further noise and visual intrusion from the major road network
- Reduce the landscape and visual impact of existing pylons and cumulative impacts with other intrusive features, notably in the south-east of the area where a number cross open fields in close proximity

3A.36. Recreation, Tourism and Access

- Establish new public access links, including connecting to the River Test, and protect, enhance and extend areas of public parks to serve the increasing population of the settlements



Boggy lowland heath at Emer Bog



Long views to wooded ridges



Sheep grazing on Baddesley Common

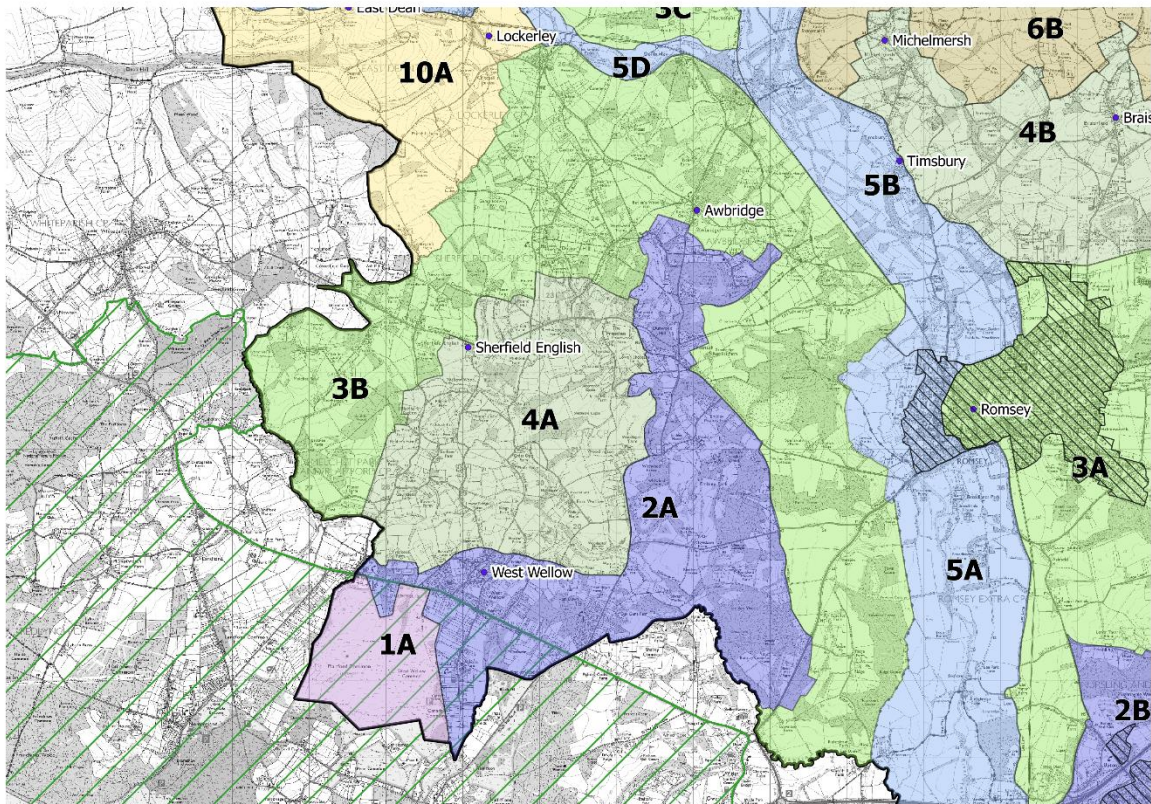


Rural roads lined by mature trees



Ancient semi-natural woodland linked by hedgerows and possible Iron Age hill fort at Telegraph Wood

LCA3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland



General Description

- 3B.1. Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland is a mixed landscape of large areas of woodland including plantations and large open areas of arable farmland with a poor quality hedgerow structure with contrasting areas containing small woodlands, small fields and better quality hedgerows with hedgerow trees.
- 3B.2. The designed grounds/parkland of Melchet Park has a strong influence on the west end of this landscape, with its post-1810 designed parkland features. These include open areas of grassland with clumps and single trees, small woodlands and shelterbelts.
- 3B.3. A number of old mineral workings are evident, as seen to the north east of Carter's Clay. The smaller of these have generally regenerated as small woodland copses and the larger pits left to fill with water, which are now small

lakes or ponds. Present day mineral extraction is evident to the east and south east of Shootash with some old workings restored to farmland.

Location

- 3B.4. Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland is a long linear character area, which wraps around from Melchet Court in the west, to the north above Sheffield English and north and east of Awbridge Danes, down southwards to the River Blackwater west of the River Test Valley.

Local Physical Influences

- 3B.5. **Geology and Soils:** The area is complex mix of mainly Wittering Formation, Earnley Sands Formation, Lambeth Group. An intrusion of London Clay extends from LCA4A to Carter's Clay and Melchet Court.

Landform: The landform is more steeply undulating than other character areas within this landscape type, with steep slopes falling to the River Test and River Dun.

Drainage: Within the valleys leading down to the River Test, there are a number of stream fed lakes, as seen to the north of Hyde Farm, east of Lower Ratley, and at Stanbridge Earls. Along the western edge of this LCA there are a number of springs, where the impervious sands and clays of this LCA meets the porous chalk further to the west.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 3B.6. Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland is predominantly improved pasture and arable farmland, divided by hedgerows. Several areas of broadleaved woodland are found in this area. Oak and birch are abundant in these areas, while other species such as ash, rowan, holly, whitebeam and field maple are also represented. There are areas of sweet chestnut and hazel, and this has often been historically managed by coppicing, although this has somewhat fallen into neglect.
- 3B.7. There are areas of acid and neutral grassland including some traditional grazed hay meadows.

- 3B.8. Other notable habitats include occasional patches of lowland heath dominated by heather, together with mosaics of acid grassland, patchy woodland and scrub. Some of the valleys have wet areas. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands link with hedgerows and provide an important resource.
- 3B.9. There are numerous ponds in this LCA; great crested newt have been recorded in a large patch of the northern part of the LCA and may be present in other nearby ponds. Hazel dormouse has also been recorded in some of the woodlands.
- 3B.10. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA3B.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Acid grassland	0.24	0.01
Arable and horticulture	552.31	20.43
Boundary and linear features	59.48	2.20
Bracken	1.08	0.04
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	571.48	21.14
Built-up areas and gardens	143.69	5.31
Coniferous woodland	60.80	2.25
Fen, marsh and swamp	4.26	0.16
Improved grassland	1135.60	42.00
Inland rock	30.62	1.13
Neutral grassland	52.53	1.94
Rivers and streams	1.31	0.05
Standing open water and canals	6.34	0.23
Unidentified habitat	69.24	2.56
Unidentified water	14.70	0.54
Total	2703.68	

Local Historical Influences

- 3B.11. Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland retains extensive evidence of assarting within a forested environment. The range and type of assarted fields suggests that this activity has been taking place throughout the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval deer park at Melchet Park (c.1259) appears to have been assarted during the later medieval period with small irregular portions parcelled off and cleared for arable agriculture. The regular fields with wavy boundaries also associated with Melchet Park may

indicate the rationalisation of the deer park on a large scale during the late medieval/early post-medieval period through informal enclosure. This differs from the creation of small irregular assarts in size and scale and may represent a large landowner wishing to rationalise their landholdings at a time when large deer parks were becoming increasingly costly and out of fashion.

- 3B.12. Further away from the deer park large, irregular and regular assarts (with straight boundaries) are indicative of later post-medieval forest clearance (during the 18th/19th and 19th/20th centuries respectively). There appears to have been only limited parliamentary enclosure during the 19th century which tended to focus upon the lower slopes of the valley of the River Test and towards the northern end of this character area to the north of Sherfield English and Awbridge.

Designations

- 3B.13. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

3B.14. **Nature Conservation**

SSSI

- Whiteparish Common - Broadleaved semi-natural woodland
- Dunbridge Pit - Broadleaved woodland, and mixed plantation

SINC

- 57 SINCs, mainly ancient semi-natural woodlands and other woodlands, also including agriculturally unimproved grasslands, wetlands and sites which support notable species

3B.15. **Historic**

Scheduled Monuments

- Moated site 100m south of Manor Farm, Plaitford
- Moated site and two fishponds 300m west of Moorcourt

Listed Buildings

- A number of listed buildings are scattered across the area including Melchet Court and Park - Grade II* Listed Building with Grade II Listed Building features

Settlement Pattern

- 3B.16. The majority of the settlements within this Landscape Character Area are generally small in size and tend to retain evidence of only nineteenth and twentieth century development. Lockerley does retain a historic core although this settlement is somewhat dispersed in nature. The settlements dominated by recent, nineteenth century expansion tends to be linear in form and extend along the main roads which extend through this Landscape Character Area.
- 3B.17. The smaller field systems at the eastern end of this character area retain a relatively densely packed pattern of farmsteads and this extends into the system of parliamentary enclosures south of Carters Clay. To the east the density of farmsteads decreases along the banks of the River Test and at the southern end of the character area.
- 3B.18. This is a settled landscape with a variety of settlement types. There are a small number of scattered nucleated settlements, for example Lockerley, Carter's Clay and Newtown. Other settlements, which constitute farms, farm cottages and small linear arrangements of Victorian development are seen to be intermittent in character often leading out from defined nucleated settlements or occurring in a scattered fashion.
- 3B.19. A high density of roads cover this area, with the A27 and the wide A3090 to the south. In the north the roads have a more rural character which are winding, narrower and with lower volumes of traffic.

Local Settlements

- 3B.20. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):
- Awbridge: Clay River Valley Settlement Type
 - Carters Clay: Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type
 - Lockerley: Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type
 - Newtown: Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type
 - Melchet Park: Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type

- Dunbridge: Clay River Valley Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

- 3B.21. The complex character of the small valleys, ridges with a high density of woodlands has created numerous pockets of areas of high tranquillity. The levels of tranquillity adjacent to mineral extraction will be affected by intrusion and activity.
- 3B.22. Although Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland is well settled, the existing settlements and areas of individual dwellings are on the whole well integrated within the landscape, maintaining a sense of seclusion. However, within those areas of linear development, which create the perception of a higher density of development, this sense of remoteness is reduced.

Key Valued Characteristics

- 3B.23. Key valued characteristics of LCA3B are as follows:
- A landscape of contrasts, with areas of a small intimate scale alongside areas with a more open character
 - Valleys with lakes leading down to the River Test Valley
 - High density of leafy rural lanes and many footpaths including the Test Way
 - Patches of lowland heath and valley wetlands
 - The forested environment and the significant impact it has had upon the development of the historic landscape
 - Irregular and regular assarts (with straight boundaries), indicative of later post-medieval forest clearance
 - Parkland and parkland features at Melchet and Stanbridge Earls
 - The medieval/ post-medieval field patterns immediately around the Melchet Park boundaries indicating the presence of the medieval deer park
 - Limited parliamentary enclosure focusing upon the area around the River Test and in the western and northern portions of the character area.
 - Hedgerows are a local important feature
 - Key views include some long-reaching views from local ridges and valley sides across undulating rural countryside to the wooded horizons and the Test

valley floor; and across parkland at Melchet and Stanbridge Earls; to Romsey from A27 along Green Hill to east.

- Rural character of roads lined by mature trees, hedgerows and grass verges
- Surviving traditional farmsteads
- Traditional styles of built form include brick walls with clay tile roofs and clay tile hanging

Key Detractors

3B.24. Key detractors of LCA3B are as follows:

- Open areas of mineral extraction and associated features e.g. bunding
- Large scale replacement dwellings, buildings enlargements and glazing are in places visually prominent often exacerbated by the loss of surrounding garden vegetation
- Subsequent loss of dark skies from large areas of glazing and lighting
- In places hedgerows have been lost or degraded
- Visually intrusive caravan parks

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

3B.25. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA3B Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland are as follows:

- Infill development along roads with already a high percentage of ribbon development
- Inappropriate restoration of areas of mineral extraction
- Declining hedgerow quality
- Potential erosion of landscape from new mineral workings
- Further rationalisation and opening out of the assarted field systems in the northern and western portions of the character area
- Visual intrusion from new built development in the landscape and associated loss of vegetation
- Potential visual impact of the expansion of areas of polytunnels from the adjacent character area LCA4A Sherfield English and resulting cumulative effects
- Expansion of farmsteads and conversion of farm buildings to residential

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3B.26. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA3B Melchet and Awbridge

Wooded Farmland are as follows:

- The landscape of the area is generally in good condition but lacks strong local distinctiveness and cohesion. The overall strategy is to enhance the existing variety within the landscape structure of Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

3B.27. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land management guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are as follows:

3B.28. Landscape Distinctiveness

- Reinforce existing local features and add to woodland and hedgerow structure
- Enhance the extant remnants of historic landscape features
- Protect the existing sense of tranquillity

3B.29. Agriculture

- Encourage reversion of arable land to pasture
- Discourage merging of remaining smaller fields

3B.30. Woodland and Trees

- Encourage new planting of woodlands in keeping with extant local woodland pattern

3B.31. Biodiversity

- Encourage heathland restoration
- Encourage the restoration and creation of ponds to the north of the LCA to conserve and enhance the local population of great crested newts
- Encourage woodland and hedgerow management and restoration to conserve and enhance the local population of hazel dormouse

3B.32. Historic Landscapes

- Protect the setting of local historic landscapes including the setting of Awbridge Danes and Embley Park Registered Parks and Gardens (adjacent to the area) and parkland at Melchet Park and Stanbridge Earls.

Land Use and Development

3B.33. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land use and development guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are:

3B.34. **Built Development**

- Proposals for new polytunnel development should consider the impact on the valued rural character of the area

3B.35. **Infrastructure**

- Maintain existing landscape character of shady, leafy lanes

3B.36. **Minerals and Waste**

- Encourage sympathetic restoration of old and active minerals workings
- Resist creation of new sites
- The landscape impact of any proposed waste by-products should be carefully considered



Small intimate-scale landscape

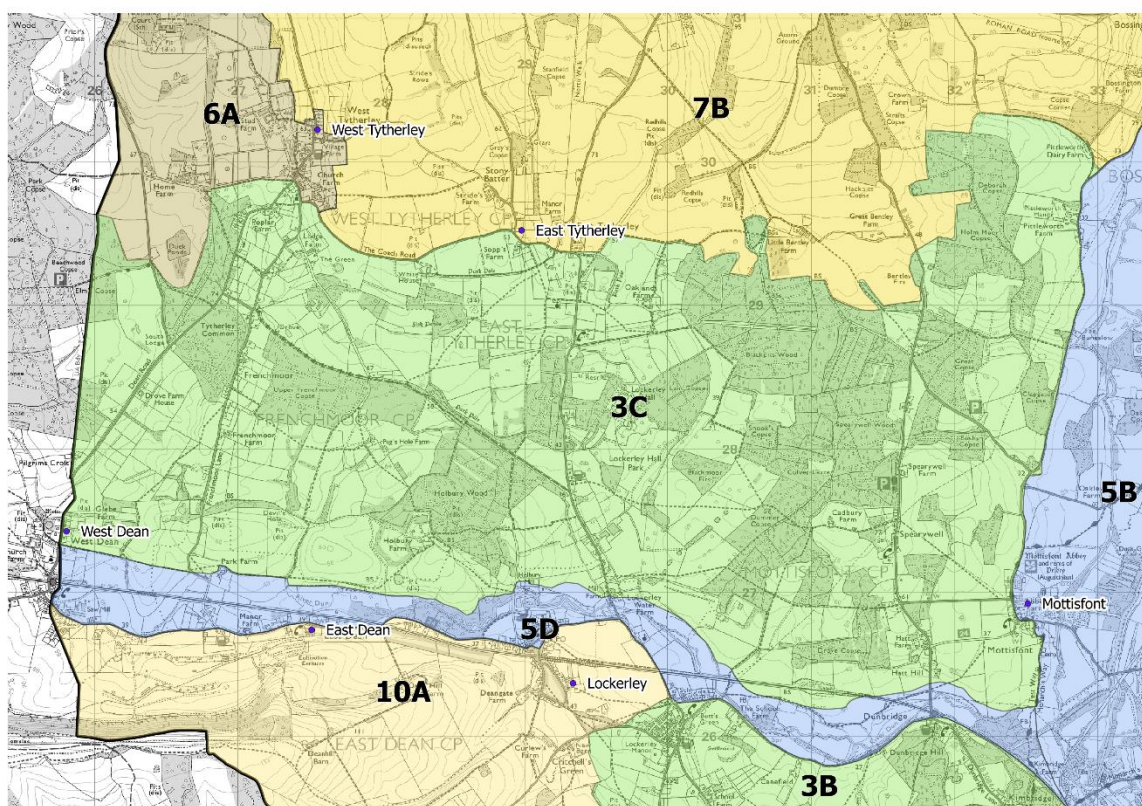


Parkland at Melchet Court



Long-reaching views across undulating rural countryside to the wooded horizon

LCA3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland



General Description

- 3C.1. Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland is a well-wooded landscape consisting of natural and plantation woodlands interspersed with medium size arable and pasture fields. Individual trees and well-treed hedgerows are a feature of this character area. The designed grounds/parkland of Mottisfont and Lockerley Hall have a strong influence on this landscape, with their post-1810 designed parkland features.

Location

- 3C.2. Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland lies north of the River Dun, and extends from Mottisfont and the River Test Valley in the east, to the Borough boundary in the west. Its northern boundary runs from north of Tytherley Common, eastwards to Pittleworth Farm.

Local Physical Influences

- 3C.3. **Geology and Soils:** The underlying geology is Lambeth Group, overlain with an inlier of London Clay. This has a strong influence on the extensive woodland cover and the high proportion of oak trees within the hedgerows.

Landform: The landform is undulating with a gentle fall south-east to the River Dun.

Drainage: The area drains into the River Dun, via a number of small streams. Small ponds and lakes are a feature of the area.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 3C.4. Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland has large areas of improved pasture and arable farmland, divided by hedgerows. There are significant and extensive areas of broadleaved woodland, including the Mottisfont Bats SAC, which supports a maternity colony of rare barbastelle bats. Hazel dormice and great crested newts are also present in this LCA. Oak and birch are abundant in these areas, while other species such as ash, rowan, holly, whitebeam and field maple are also represented. There are areas of sweet chestnut and hazel, and this has often been historically managed by coppicing, although this has somewhat fallen into neglect.

- 3C.5. There are small areas of neutral grassland.

- 3C.6. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA3C.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	407.20	21.87
Boundary and linear features	24.84	1.33
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	568.30	30.52
Built-up areas and gardens	57.22	3.07
Coniferous woodland	44.79	2.41
Fen, marsh and swamp	7.04	0.38
Improved grassland	683.41	36.70
Neutral grassland	24.27	1.30
Standing open water and canals	0.59	0.03
Unidentified habitat	41.11	2.21
Unidentified water	3.23	0.17
Total	1862.00	

Local Historical Influences

- 3C.7. Several areas of formal parkland and deer park are present within Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland including at Mottisfont Abbey and Lockerley Hall Park. In the case of Lockerley Hall Park, extensive replanting of pre-1810 woodland both within and along its formal park borders may indicate landscape design on a large scale. A considerable length of park pale survives associated with the deer park and fish ponds north of Holbury Wood. This may suggest the presence of a now vanished or incorporated monastic grange associated with Mottisfont Abbey to the east.
- 3C.8. One factor which may have had a significant influence in the past was the Benedictine Abbey of Mottisfont Abbey (later to become a stately home and now owned and run by the National Trust). Monastic orders exercised great power in the landscape and are known to have embarked upon extensive infrastructure projects to improve their numerous land holdings. Little survives today to suggest active land management by the Benedictine order at Mottisfont although we do know that in general they were not as great as the Cistercian order at managing the landscape. It may be that the monastery was instead located close to a good supply of water but essentially within a forested environment as an aid to contemplation and only affected its hinterland in small and relatively undetectable ways.
- 3C.9. These parkland environments lie within a largely assarted historic landscape which extended south to the valley of the River Dun on the southern boundary of this area. A band of regular fields with wavy boundaries indicating informal enclosure of the 17th and 18th century extends north and south of Mottisfont along the first terrace of the River Test. There is only limited parliamentary field enclosure within this area associated with one or two farms along its western borders and down by Mottisfont on the River Test.

Designations

- 3C.10. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:
- 3C.11. **Nature Conservation**

SAC

- Mottisfont Bats - Group of woodlands including semi-natural broadleaved woodland, coniferous and mixed plantations and small patches of unimproved grassland, which supports a colony of barbastelle bats

SSSI

- Bentley Wood - Coniferous and mixed plantations, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and unimproved grassland

- Mottisfont Bats

SINC

- 46 SINC, including ancient semi-natural woodlands, other woodlands, agriculturally unimproved grasslands and sites which support notable species

3C.12. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- West Tytherley Conservation Area (partially within area)
- Mottisfont Conservation Area (partially within area)

Scheduled Monuments

- Holbury Wood camp
- Site of manor house

Listed Buildings

- A number of listed buildings are scattered across the LCA including Lockerley Hall Grade II Listed Building and listed buildings within the Mottisfont Conservation Area

Settlement Pattern

3C.13. Formal settlement activity tends to be focused along the borders of this Landscape Character Area with East Tytherley to the north and Mottisfont at the south eastern corner. Mottisfont is an anomalous settlement which has developed around a stately home (derived from a 13th century Benedictine monastery) and which corresponds with the Estate Village Settlement Type. This comprises a medieval church and a series of some 18th but largely 19th century buildings which were developed to service the main house.

3C.14. East Tytherley has minimal 19th and 20th century settlement activity with an earlier medieval manorial farm close by. This settlement has a largely

nucleated historic core which has witnessed only a small amount of post-medieval village development along major roads.

- 3C.15. Settlement form, pattern and character vary from the nucleated village of East Tytherley to the linear settlement of Frenchmoor, which is strung out for nearly a mile along its road. Originally nucleated in form, post 1811 development has caused its existing linear form with housing evolving along the north and south approach roads.
- 3C.16. Farmsteads close to Mottisfont are well spaced with no farms within the wooded settings of Spearywell Wood and Dummer Copse. To the west, the large irregular assarts and parliamentary enclosures within the parish of Frenchmoor are accompanied by well-dispersed farmsteads which appear to sit within considerable territories.
- 3C.17. Roads generally align in a north-south direction.

Local Settlements

- 3C.18. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):
- East Tytherley: Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type
 - West Tytherley: Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type
 - Frenchmoor: Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type
 - Mottisfont: Estate Village Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

- 3C.19. The strong sense of enclosure and heavily wooded character has created a good sense of seclusion with areas of tranquillity away from popular areas such as Mottisfont.

Key Valued Characteristics

- 3C.20. Key valued characteristics of LCA3C are as follows:
- Gentle undulating landform
 - Formal and deer parklands
 - Large areas of tranquillity

- Monastic presence at Mottisfont on the banks of the River Test although this appears to have had relatively little impact upon what must have been a largely forested environment
- Presence of several well managed parkland environments both within their borders and in their immediate hinterland with extensive replanting of pre-1810 woodland
- Large regular assarting along the southern borders of this character area
- 17th and 18th century informal enclosure along the banks of the River Test and later parliamentary enclosure during the 19th century along the western border of this character area.
- Well-wooded landscape providing enclosure including areas of native woodlands
- Well dispersed farmsteads with settlements on the margins of the character area contributing to rural character and sense of time depth
- Traditional styles of built form include brick walls with clay tile roofs
- Leafy rural lanes
- Surviving traditional farmsteads
- Key views include some long reaching views to the Test valley floor and wooded horizons; and across parkland and to parkland features at Mottisfont and Lockerley Hall

Key Detractors

3C.21. Key detractors of LCA3C are as follows:

- Pylons in the eastern area of the LCA

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

3C.22. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA3C are as follows:

- Pressure for additional development and the potential redevelopment of any of the historic parkland environments which have played such an important role in the development of this historic landscape
- Expansion of farmsteads and conversion of farm buildings to residential
- Potential erosion to the sense of remoteness and local history
- Intrusion from overhead power lines.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3C.23. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA3C Tytherley and Mottisfont

Wooded Farmland are as follows:

- The landscape is generally well managed and is valued for its historic features and the high density of woodland and sense of seclusion from human activity. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance the wooded seclusion and historic landscapes of Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

3C.24. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land management guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are as follows:

3C.25. Landscape Distinctiveness

- Maintain current levels of sense of seclusion and tranquillity
- Continue to maintain the predominance of woodland and the contrast with the adjacent open arable areas and river valleys

3C.26. Agriculture

- Maintain the existing field pattern
- Resist changes from pasture to arable use

3C.27. Woodland and Trees

- Encourage the retention of hedgerow trees and individual specimens in the landscape
- Maintain current woodland cover

3C.28. Biodiversity

- Encourage the restoration and creation of ponds around Mottisfont / Spearywell to the eastern part of the LCA to conserve and enhance the local population of great crested newt
- Encourage the management and restoration of woodland and hedgerow corridors to conserve and enhance the local population of barbastelle bats and hazel dormice

3C.29. Historic Landscapes

- Protect the setting of local historic landscapes including the setting of Mottisfont Abbey Registered Park and Garden and Lockerley Hall Park

Land Use and Development

3C.30. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land use and development guidelines apply to this character area. Specific to this Character Area are:

3C.31. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of overhead power lines



Designed landscape at Mottisfont



Parkland features at East Tytherley



Large assarted fields



Gently undulating landform at Frenchmoor